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***Aerospace Medicine***

**BASE RESPIRATORY PROTECTION  
PROGRAM**

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This instruction implements AFD 48-1, *Aerospace Medical Program*, AFI 48-101, *Aerospace Medicine Operations*, 29 CFR 1910.134, *Respiratory Protection*, 29 CFR 1910.139, *Respiratory Protection for M. Tuberculosis*; and AFOSH Std 48-137, *Respiratory Protection Program*. All organizations in which personnel wear respirators for protection against potential respiratory hazards or for emergency escape and rescue are required to maintain this instruction. This program will ensure all respirator users are medically qualified, properly fit-tested, and adequately trained to use appropriate respiratory protection. It applies to all military and DoD civilian personnel employed in areas where respirators are used; it does not apply to contract personnel. This instruction identifies minimum program requirements and requires each work area using respirators to maintain a written workplace specific respiratory protection operating instruction (OI). One copy of this OI will be maintained in each work area where respirator use is required. This instruction applies to all personnel assigned, attached to or associated with the 51st Fighter Wing, 7<sup>th</sup> Air Force at Osan Air Base (AB), collocated operating bases, ranges, and units supported by Osan AB. This instruction does not apply to nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) warfare situations, including NBC exercises.

***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS***

**This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.**

**1. Responsibilities:** General responsibilities for units involved in the respiratory protection program (RPP) are found in AFOSH Std 48-137. Specific responsibilities regarding implementation of this RPP are addressed below:

1.1. Unit Commanders will:

1.1.1. Authorize expenditure of unit funds to purchase and maintain individual respiratory protection devices when use of such devices are required based on a hazard related to a particular work environment, by Technical Order (TO), or as directed by the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight (BEF) .

1.1.2. Ensure a RPP is established and maintained to conform with the requirements of AFOSH Std 48-137.

1.1.3. Ensure personnel who use respiratory protection devices are provided adequate training, as outlined in AFOSH Std 48-137 .

1.1.4. Ensure individuals who supervise employees who use respirators receive initial and annual supervisory respirator training from BEF, IAW AFI 48-137.

1.2. Base Logistics will:

1.2.1. Control the issue of respirators ordered through the standard base supply system (SBSS) as described in AFOSH Std 48-137.

1.2.2. Issue exception code (IEX) P will be assigned to all stock numbers in stock class 4240 and respirator spare parts identified to base supply by BEF .

1.2.3. Ensure BEF has approved requests for respiratory protective devices prior to processing. The requester will obtain the BEF approval on the AF Form 2005, **Issue/Turn-In Request**, Block B.

1.2.4. Ensure a "suitable substitute" issue request for stock numbers assigned IEX P are approved by BEF.

1.2.5. Ensure base supply personnel who process respirator issue requests receive annual training on respirator issue procedures. The training will emphasize the importance of prohibiting the issue of "suitable substitutes" for the required respirator.

1.3. Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight (BEF) will:

1.3.1. Evaluate occupational hazards to determine the need for individual respirator use based on exposure, and select the appropriate respiratory protective device.

1.3.2. Conduct respirator training on wear, care and use, and fit testing.

1.3.3. Provide information required to order the appropriate respirator.

1.3.4. Issue fit test certification (AF Form 2772, **Certificate of Respirator Fit test**, or equivalent) to all qualified respirator users.

1.3.5. Conduct routine workplace evaluations in work areas where use of respiratory protection is required to evaluate overall effectiveness of the program.

1.3.6. Review, approve, and maintain copies of work area RPP OI.

1.3.7. Ensure all prospective respirator users are qualified to wear a respirator by a LHP prior to performing fit testing .

1.3.8. Provide Wing Ground Safety and Public Health with a quarterly summary of RPP status.

1.3.9. Educate and train workplace supervisors, workers, and base supply personnel.

1.3.10. Maintain a current list of all employees who have been fit tested and trained.

1.4. Supervisors will:

1.4.1. Establish a formal RPP in their work area by maintaining a work area specific RPP Binder. This binder will include work area specific procedures. This binder will be tabbed and contain the items listed in [Attachment 1](#).

1.4.2. Obtain BEF approval before ordering individual respirators.

1.4.3. Ensure workers who require individual respirators complete the Medical Evaluation Questionnaire and that results are forwarded to Force Health Management .

1.4.4. Contact BEF to schedule workers for respirator fit testing.

1.4.5. Conduct workplace specific respirator training IAW work area specific RPP OI.

1.4.6. Ensure workers use respirators only for the task(s) delineated on an AF Form 2772.

1.4.7. Call BEF at DSN 784-2623 for technical information and guidance regarding respiratory protection .

1.4.8. Successfully complete supervisory respiratory protection training.

1.4.9. Coordinate with Optometry (51 AMDS/SGPO) to provide eyeglass inserts for individuals who require prescription lenses while wearing full-face respirators. Soft and gas permeable contact lenses are permitted.

1.5. Respirator Users will:

1.5.1. Be familiar with requirements in AFOSH Std 48-137 and 51 FWI 48-101, and the applicable work area specific RPP OI.

1.5.2. Use respirators according to instructions and training provided by BEF.

1.5.3. Use only those respirators for which they have received training and fit testing, and only for the tasks specified in the work area specific RPP OI.

1.6. Force Health Management will:

1.6.1. Ensure that all respirator questionnaires are reviewed by an LHP.

1.6.2. Schedule medical appointments for individuals who require a physical examination based on the responses provided on the medical evaluation questionnaire.

1.6.3. Place a copy of the completed medical evaluation questionnaire in the individual's medical record.

1.7. Public Health Flight will: Ensure individuals who are required to use respiratory protection have completed a medical evaluation questionnaire.

1.8. Fire Department will: Provide initial and annual training on INTERSPIRO self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) to workers required to use them for work or escape purposes .

## **2. Hazard Assessment and Control:**

2.1. Assessment.

2.1.1. BEF will evaluate occupational health hazards to determine whether or not respiratory protection is required. This assessment will be accomplished during routine industrial workplace evaluations, or by special request .

2.1.2. Work areas that are mandated by technical order, operational guidance, or any other regulation to wear respirators will notify BEF of such directives and attach a copy of the applicable information.

2.2. Respiratory Hazard Control: BEF is the final approving authority for use of respiratory protection on Osan AB, collocated operating bases, ranges, and units supported by Osan AB. All respirators, whether locally purchased, issued through formal logistics channels, purchased as part of a kit, or received as a promotional item, must be approved by BEF before the respirator can be used.

### 3. Respirator Selection, Use, Limitations and Restrictions:

3.1. Selection: BEF researches and determines which respiratory protective devices are authorized for use on Osan AB, collocated operating bases, ranges, and units supported by Osan AB. This selection will be based on the operation being performed, the physical/chemical hazard present, and the respirator protection factor required to safely operate/work in a specific work area .

3.2. Use: Respirator use is limited to the task(s) listed in the work area specific RPP OI.

3.3. Limitations: Contact BEF at DSN 784-2623 regarding questions on specific respirator limitations .

#### 3.4. Restrictions:

3.4.1. Workers will not perform tasks that require the use of a respirator unless they have been medically qualified, adequately trained, and properly fit tested for the appropriate respirator, and issued an AF Form 2772 by BEF at Osan AB.

3.4.2. Workers with facial hair that impairs the proper seal of the respirator will not be fitted with a tight fitting respirator.

3.4.3. Respirators will not be shared among personnel unless specifically approved by BEF and documented in the work area specific RPP OI .

3.4.4. Surgical masks are not authorized to prevent occupational exposures. These devices are only appropriate for infection control purposes.

3.4.5. Privately procured respirators will not be worn by Air Force employees at Osan AB, collocated operating bases, ranges, and units supported by Osan AB work areas.

3.4.6. A filtering facepiece, i.e., respirator which has a face piece made entirely of filtering or absorbing material, is a respirator and its use will conform to all requirements of this instruction if used to protect against a known hazard, or if voluntary use of the respirator is required to perform specific job-related duties. If an individual elects to use a filtering facepiece respirator for comfort purposes, the work area supervisor must ensure the worker receives all training identified in AFOSH Std 48-137, paragraph 3.5, and documents this training onto AF Form 55.

#### 3.5. Vision:

3.5.1. If an individual elects to wear prescription contact lenses while wearing a respirator, the individual will purchase the contact lenses at their own expense .

3.5.2. Workers who wear corrective prescription lenses will bring their prescription to the Optometry Clinic. The worker's unit will purchase the required frames. The Optometry Clinic will make required adjustments to allow the individual to safely wear the respirator.

3.6. Tuberculosis (TB):

3.6.1. N95 series filtering facepiece respirators (95 percent efficient for non-oil containing particulate) are authorized for use by personnel assigned to the 51st Medical Group. Individuals who are identified as having a potential need for protection against TB will conform to all requirements of this instruction.

3.6.2. Initial and periodic qualitative fit testing will be performed using a method approved IAW AFOSH Std 48-137 or the method recommended by the applicable manufacturer.

**4. Medical Surveillance:**

4.1. A medical evaluation questionnaire will be used by the 51st Medical Group to determine an individual's fitness to wear/use a respirator .

4.2. The Occupational Health Working Group will review workplace exposure data to determine if an occupational medical examination is required.

**5. Program Evaluation:** Each workplace will evaluate the workplace-specific RPP annually. [Attachment 1](#) outlines the items that will be maintained in a three ring binder in each work area where respirator use is required .

**6. Documentation:**

6.1. RPP Medical Evaluation Questionnaire. This questionnaire is used to document that an individual is medically qualified to wear/use a respirator. Completed questionnaires are filed in each individual's medical records.

6.2. AF Form 55, Employee Safety and Health Record. The requirement to use a respirator will documented on the AF Form 55 .

6.2.1. Block IV is used to document BEF respirator training and fit test certification.

6.2.2. Block V is used to document work area specific RPP training.

6.3. PIMR Medical Examination Form. Preventive Health Assessment\Individual Medical Readiness (PIMR) Database generated medical examination forms will be completed by Public Health to identify clinical occupational health exam requirements for specific work areas .

6.4. **AF Form 2772, Certificate of Respirator Fit Test** . AF Form 2772 will be used to document certification of BEF respirator training and fit testing. This form will be filed in work area RPP Binder. *NOTE: This certificate contains an expiration date.*

6.5. **RPP Binder** . A RPP Binder will be maintained in each work area where use of respiratory protection is required. The binder will contain work area specific information regarding RPP implementation. The binder will contain items as listed in [Attachment 1](#) .

**7. Respirator Training and Fit testing Procedures:**

- 7.1. Workplace supervisor will coordinate with BEF to schedule workers for training and fit testing.
  - 7.1.1. Individuals will refrain from smoking for at least 45 minutes prior to start of the training/fit testing class .
  - 7.1.2. Individual who are to be trained and fit tested for wearing/using a tight-fitting respirator must be clean-shaven prior to start of class.
- 7.2. Worker completes Part I of the Medical Evaluation Questionnaire in ink at least two weeks prior to training and fit testing.
- 7.3. Supervisor forwards the Medical Evaluation Questionnaire to Force Health Management.
- 7.4. Supervisor conducts work area specific respirator training.
- 7.5. Supervisor documents work area specific respirator training on AF Form 55, block V.
- 7.6. Force Health Management personnel review the medical evaluation questionnaire and forwards to the appropriate LHP.
- 7.7. LHP approves or disqualifies worker for respirator use by completing appropriate Part II on back of the medical evaluation questionnaire.
- 7.8. Force Health Management personnel will contact the individual if the LHP requests an interview.
- 7.9. LHP places a completed copy of the medical evaluation questionnaire in the individual's medical record.
- 7.10. Force Health Management personnel will contact the supervisor should the individual be medically disqualified for wearing/using a respirator .
- 7.11. BEF accomplishes training and performs fit testing.
- 7.12. BEF completes AF Form 2772 or equivalent and forwards copy to the supervisor.
- 7.13. Supervisor documents BEF certification date (in pencil) onto AF Form 55 block IV.
- 7.14. Supervisor files AF Form 2772 or equivalent in the work area specific RPP Binder, Tab B.
- 7.15. Squadron authorizes procurement of an appropriate respirator after the individual has completed training and fit testing.

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Commander, 51st Fighter Wing

**Attachment 1****RESPIRATOR PROTECTION PROGRAM BINDER TABLE OF CONTENTS****Tab A:**

**1. Work Area Specific OI:** Each work area where use of respiratory protection is required shall develop an OI, which will be approved by BEF. The OI will include:

**2. Responsibilities:** This section will outline the responsibilities described in AFOSH Std 48-137, as well as work area specific responsibilities that are necessary to implementing the base RPP.

**3. Respirator Selection, Use, And Limitations:** This section identifies the procedures for determining the appropriate type of respirator required for the work being accomplished, procedures for proper use of the required respiratory protection, and any limitations associated with the required respiratory protection.

**4. Workplace-specific Respirator Training.** The shop supervisor will determine the appropriate length of workplace-specific training and how training will be accomplished in the work area. Consideration should be given to topics such as training schedule, record keeping requirements, training emergency response and rescue teams, and/or any other unique work area requirements. Topics should include, but are not limited to situations or operations for which respirators are required or recommended, respirator inspection, cleaning, storage, and maintenance procedures, criteria workers will use to determine when respirator filters or cartridges must be changed, the location of information concerning the shop RPP.

**5. Fit Testing:** Follow the requirements outlined in 51 FWI 48-101, paragraph 7.

**6. Care, Inspection, and Maintenance of Respirators.** Outline workplace-specific procedures for care, inspection, maintenance and storage of respirators.

**7. Medical Surveillance.** Follow the procedures outlined 51 FWI 48-101, paragraphs 4., 6. and 7.

**8. Administrative Procedures.** Outline the work area specific administrative requirements regarding the purchase, control, or issuance of respirators in this section.

**9. Procedures for Program Evaluation.** Procedures for conducting self-inspections and program reviews will be maintained at this tab. In addition, work area self-inspections and program reviews will be included at this tab.

**Tab B: Training Documentation.** Copies of AF Form 2772 will be maintained in this tab, as well as AF Forms 55, or a cross-reference document showing where these forms are maintained.

**Tab C:** Maintain a copy of 51 FWI 48-101.

**Tab D:** Maintain a copy of AFOSH Std 48-137.